

Runge Conservation Nature Center

Habitat Happenings

May and June 2006



My friend,

Hi! How are you? Good here. Have you ever been in a canoe? The experience is absolutely breathtaking.

Canoeing is indescribable. The feel of the paddle in your hand, the wind, rain, or sun on your face, and the relaxing sound of water will transport you to the present. I promise. You will feel life's chaotic ways fading into the ripples.

How about canoeing with me on an Ozark stream with clear water, limestone bluffs and the chance to see a migrating osprey? Let's try the Eleven Point River. I will call and reserve a canoe for the first Monday and Tuesday of May. How does that sound?

The Eleven Point is tucked away into the rolling hills of the Irish Wilderness and is fed by natural springs. As we canoe we will get to see Greer Spring, the second largest in Missouri. Then, we can camp at the recreational campground and finish our trip at Blue Spring Branch, the eighth largest spring in Missouri. I can't wait!

You can make canoe reservations for our next float trip. Let's venture north. We could float and fish the Salt River which created Mark Twain Lake. I hear crappie are biting like crazy in October. Then we can picnic on a sandbar as we admire the vibrant colors of fall.

Don't worry if you are new at canoeing. Here's the reference I used-*A Paddler's Guide to Missouri*. It tells you how to plan a trip; what you will need; some safety and paddling tips; river maps and descriptions; how to find outfitters; and other important information.

We can float Missouri streams all year round, any day of the week. Let's think beyond the summer weekend float trip. What are we waiting for?

Paddling on,
Trana Madsen
Naturalist



Volunteer News

In 2005, Runge volunteers generously donated 6,872 hours and reached over 24,000 people during programs and events.

Thanks, Runge Volunteers--we appreciate you!



**Volunteers
in
Action!**



**Volunteer
Appreciation Week
April 23-29, 2006**

*As a caring volunteer you
always do your part
to share your time with a
generous heart.*



Lobby Exhibits

May

**Communicating the Majesty
of the Natural World**

A William Woods University

Mentor/Mentee Exhibit

*by Professor Terry Martin and
student Sarah Williams*



This exhibit reflects exploration in a variety of media. The goal is to match certain media and methods with the diversity of wildlife and nature. The art pieces endeavor to provide encouragement and stimulation for people interested in art and nature.

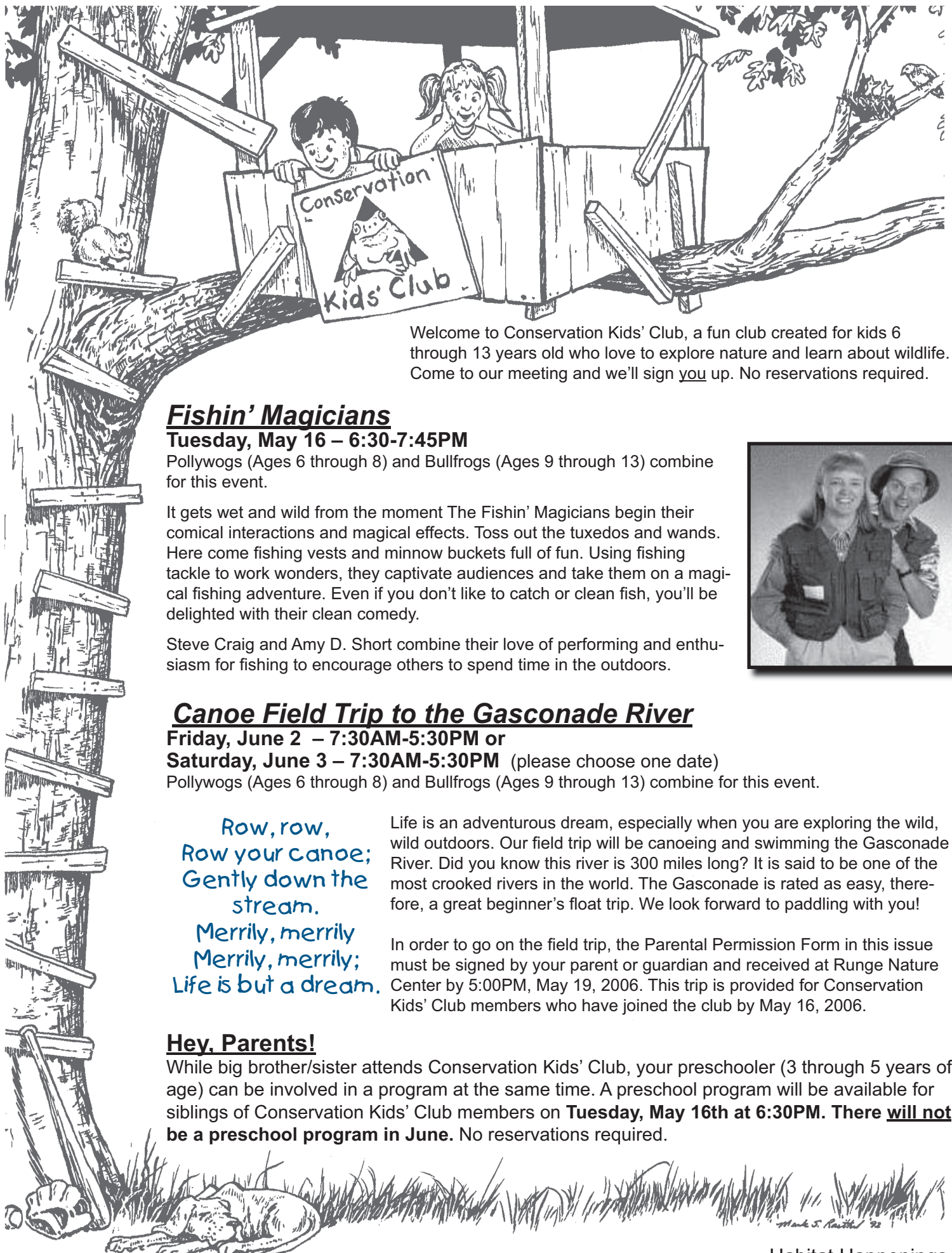
June

Junior Duck Stamp

We are proud to display the winning artwork from Missouri's Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Visit the nature center anytime during June to view the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention entries from this contest.

Runge Conservation Nature

Center is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north for 1/4 mile to the nature center entrance on the left. The nature center is open Monday through Saturday 8AM to 5PM and Noon to 5PM on Sundays. No admission fee. 573/526-5544 www.missouriconservation.org



Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to our meeting and we'll sign you up. No reservations required.

Fishin' Magicians

Tuesday, May 16 – 6:30-7:45PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

It gets wet and wild from the moment The Fishin' Magicians begin their comical interactions and magical effects. Toss out the tuxedos and wands. Here come fishing vests and minnow buckets full of fun. Using fishing tackle to work wonders, they captivate audiences and take them on a magical fishing adventure. Even if you don't like to catch or clean fish, you'll be delighted with their clean comedy.

Steve Craig and Amy D. Short combine their love of performing and enthusiasm for fishing to encourage others to spend time in the outdoors.



Canoe Field Trip to the Gasconade River

Friday, June 2 – 7:30AM-5:30PM or

Saturday, June 3 – 7:30AM-5:30PM (please choose one date)

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

*Row, row,
Row your canoe;
Gently down the
stream.*

*Merrily, merrily
Merrily, merrily;
Life is but a dream.*

Life is an adventurous dream, especially when you are exploring the wild, wild outdoors. Our field trip will be canoeing and swimming the Gasconade River. Did you know this river is 300 miles long? It is said to be one of the most crooked rivers in the world. The Gasconade is rated as easy, therefore, a great beginner's float trip. We look forward to paddling with you!

In order to go on the field trip, the Parental Permission Form in this issue must be signed by your parent or guardian and received at Runge Nature Center by 5:00PM, May 19, 2006. This trip is provided for Conservation Kids' Club members who have joined the club by May 16, 2006.

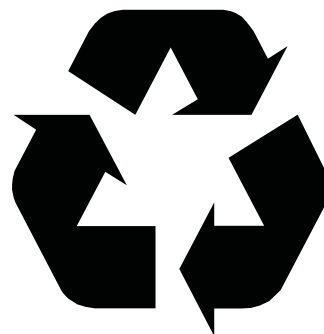
Hey, Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 5 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, May 16th at 6:30PM. There will not be a preschool program in June.** No reservations required.

Free Fishing June 10 & 11

Experience the joy of fishing!

No fishing permit is
required on these
two days to fish.



RECYCLE

your used fishing line to keep
wildlife tangle-free. We will have a
drop box at the nature center for you
to dispose of any used fishing line.

***National
Trails
Day
June 3***



Habitat Happenings

Runge Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 64102

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Jefferson City Missouri
Permit No. 274

May Events

To make a reservation, call **after 8:00AM on May 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend. Thank you.

4 Thursday

Spring Wildflower Walk

Time: 5:00PM

Ages: All Ages

"March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers," goes the nursery rhyme. Join us each Thursday of May for a spring wildflower walk. We will walk our nature trails and see what is blooming at Runge. Together we will appreciate, enjoy, and identify the beautiful spring flowers. Bring along your field guides and cameras to aid in identifying and capturing some of these beauties! Reservations required.

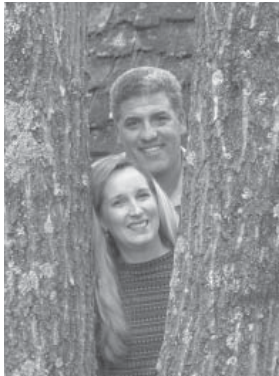
9 Tuesday

WildHeart Concert

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: All Ages

We are excited to welcome Jan and George Syrigos back to the Runge stage! Jan and George have been immersed in nature since they were kids and spent many years working as Naturalists right here at Runge Nature Center. Jan's first recording project, *CritterRock*, was produced by the Missouri Department of Conservation and awarded the Parent's Choice Award. In addition, the *CritterRock* music video received an Emmy Award. Now they return as *WildHeart* with their wild variety of tunes including jazz, pop, swing, bluegrass, and rap - chocked full of facts and fun about the natural world. Bring your *CritterRock* and *WildHeart* cd's or purchase them after the concert and get them signed by the artists. Reservations required.



11 Thursday

Spring Wildflower Walk

Time: 5:00PM

Ages: All Ages

See May 4th for description. Reservations required.

11 Thursday

The How and Why of Hummingbird Banding

Time: 7:00PM

Ages: Adults

How big is a hummingbird's leg? Where do you put a band? Why do this? Troy Gordon, long-time hummingbird bander and enthusiast, will explain how hummingbirds are banded. He will also tell about his research on the size of the ruby-throated hummingbirds' summer territory in mid-Missouri. If weather permits, he will attempt to trap several hummingbirds and band them at the nature center. Troy will also provide general information about attracting hummingbirds to your home and discuss the basic biology of these tiny jewels of the sky. This program is co-sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

13 Saturday

Beginning Map and Compass

Time: 10:00-11:30AM and 1:30-3:00PM

Ages: All Ages

What is a topo map? How do you navigate with a compass? Learn the basics of using a map and compass during this workshop. Bring your compass or use one of ours, and be prepared to go outside. Reservations required.

18 Thursday

Spring Wildflower Walk

Time: 5:00PM

Ages: All Ages

See May 4th for description. Reservations required.

18 Thursday

Nature's Needlers

Time: 10:30AM-Noon and 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: 50 years and older

This month we learn about one of nature's spring tonics—sassafras. Please bring with you a basic sewing kit, cutting implements, a towel or 20" square of muslin, pins, and pieces of fabric suitable for adding a sassafras block to your quilt. Reservations required.

20 Saturday

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

See splendid sights! Burn some calories! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

This month, we'll travel to one of our most popular state parks—**Bennett Spring State Park**. We won't be in search of trout, though. We'll hike the **Natural Tunnel Trail** (7.5 miles, ***) to find a 296-foot-long S-shaped tunnel—one of the largest, most beautiful (and largely unknown) natural tunnels in the state. Bring a small pack, your lunch, water, and hiking boots or comfortable shoes. We will eat lunch on the trail. Bring a flashlight if you want to explore inside the tunnel. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

Trail rating system for the trails advertised for the Runge Hiking Club and Midweek Trekkers.

*Easiest trail-flat terrain with no obstructions (like the Katy Trail)

**Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)

***Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots

****Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots

*****Most difficult-significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks

For the little ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Saturday, May 13 – 10:00AM

Thursday, May 25 – 10:00AM

Friday, May 26 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Tuesday, May 9 – 1:00PM

Thursday, May 18 – 9:00AM

Saturday, May 20 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, May 23 – 11:00AM

Drip and Drop

Rain, rain, go away, come again another day! Who needs it? We all do! This month, we will have fun playing with rain and maybe even in the rain. It will be a damp, but exciting time. Reservations required.

21 Sunday

Story Tree

Time: 2:00PM

Ages: Ages 4-11 years (accompanied by an adult.)

Join us when we enter the wonderful world of nature through story books. Girls and boys may pick a title from the Story Tree. Volunteer naturalists will read the selected books. Various hands-on activities, discussions, explanations, and more will follow each reading. We may take a walk, so please dress for the weather. No reservations required.

24 Wednesday

Runge Midweek Trekkers

Time: 8:00AM-5:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

Take a hike! Runge Midweek Trekkers is a volunteer-led program designed to provide more opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Like the Runge Hiking Club, Midweek Trekkers is for beginner and experienced hikers alike. Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

With over 17, 000 acres, **Lake of the Ozarks State Park** is Missouri's largest. This month, we'll hike a portion of the **Trail of Four Winds** (approximately 10 miles, ****), which wanders through oak-hickory forests and provides views of the lake, an old quarry, and a glimpse of Grand Glaize Marsh. Bring a small pack, your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes. We will eat lunch on the trail. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

25 Thursday

Spring Wildflower Walk

Time: 5:00PM

Ages: All Ages

See May 4th for description. Reservations required.

June Events

To make a reservation, call **after 8:00AM on June 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend. Thank you.

3 Saturday

Hiking For Everyone!

Time: 10:00AM-Noon

Ages: All

Help us celebrate National Trails Day at Runge. To celebrate we are inviting everyone to join us as we explore the trails at Runge and our Conservation headquarters. This is an excellent opportunity to rediscover your favorite pastime or gain a new hobby. The trails are not stroller accessible, so please come properly equipped. Reservations required.

4 Sunday

Story of York

Time: 2:00 - 3:00PM

Ages: Ages 10 years and older

It was the year 1806 when the Corps of Discovery passed the mouth of the Platte River and continued rapidly downstream into the area that would become Missouri. Now, 200 years later, Willie Lyles will share some stories from the Expedition through the eyes of York, who traveled with Lewis and Clark as the slave of Captain Clark. Willie was selected as the official "York" by the Discovery Expedition out of St. Louis. His portrayal of York will weave natural resource concepts and history into a revealing story of this westward journey. Reservations required.

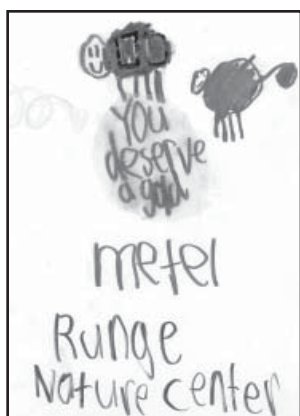


11 Sunday
Story Tree

Time: 2:00PM

Ages: Ages 4-11 years (accompanied by an adult.)

Join us when we enter the wonderful world of nature through story books. Girls and boys may pick a title from the Story Tree. Volunteer naturalists will read the selected books. Various hands-on activities, discussions, explanations, and more will follow each reading. Dress for the weather; we may walk, too. No reservations required.



School groups enjoy visiting the nature center. Why don't you come and spend some time with us!



14 Wednesday

Runge Midweek Trekkers

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

Established in 1924 to honor Monroe County's native son, **Mark Twain State Park** is the third oldest state park in Missouri. After an orientation at the Mark Twain Birthplace State Historic Site, where the Clemens family belongings and cabin is protected, we'll hit the trail. **The White Oak Trail** (6 miles, ***) winds around a peninsula of 18,600-acre Mark Twain Lake and is a great trail for lake overlooks, wildflowers, and a chance to spot the striking red-headed woodpecker in the ghost forest coves. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

15 Thursday

Nature's Needlers

Time: 10:30AM-Noon and 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: 50 years and older

This month we focus on the life cycle of the butterfly. Please bring with you a basic sewing kit, cutting implements, a towel or 20" square of muslin, pins, and pieces of fabric suitable for the subject. Reservations required.

24 Saturday

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

When French trappers and traders explored Missouri's rivers in the late 1600's, they named a southwest Missouri river Pomme de Terre ("apple of the earth") for some plants that resembled potatoes that grew on its banks. Come with us to **Pomme de Terre State Park**, where we'll hike two rocky peninsulas of what is now Pomme de Terre lake. We'll begin with the **Cedar Bluff Trail** (2 miles, **.) After lunch, we'll find the remnants of a Native American cairn on the **Indian Point Trail** (3 miles, ***) Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

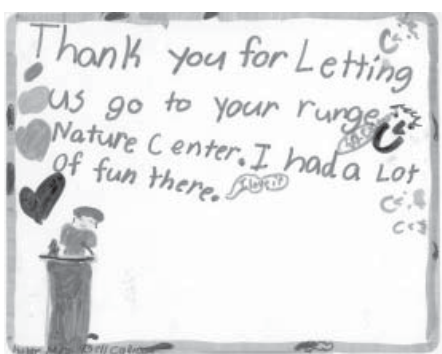
29 Thursday

Homeschoolers: Nature Journaling

Time: 10:00-11:30AM

Ages: Ages 7-17 years

Journaling is a way to record observations. We will hike a trail and record what we see and hear through sketching, writing, or both! Bring a journal if you have one and prepare to be outside. Reservations required.



For the little ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Thursday, June 8 – 10:00AM

Saturday, June 10 – 10:00AM

Friday, June 23 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

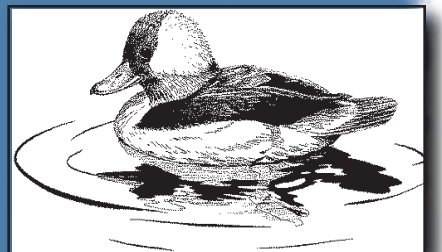
3 through 6 years of age

Tuesday, June 13 – 10:00AM

Sunday, June 18 – 2:00PM

Wednesday, June 21 – 1:00PM

Tuesday, June 27 – 10:00AM



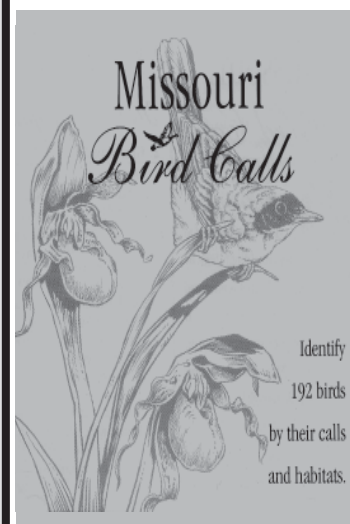
**Duck,
Duck,
Goose!**

Waddling, paddling, or flying, take your pick. Ducks can do it all! These feathered friends will highlight our program this month. Quack, quack—come join us! Reservations required.

Nature Shop News

May/June featured item

20% OFF



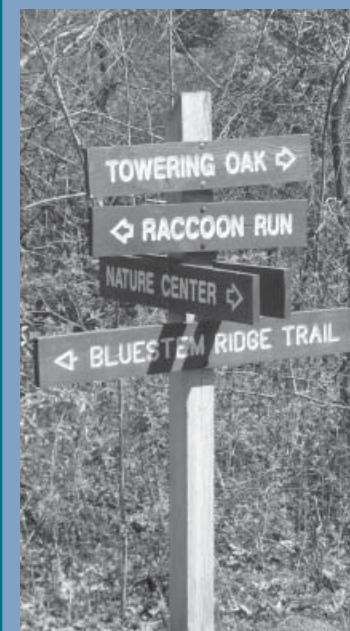
Missouri Bird Calls CD

Learn to identify the calls of 192 birds you might hear in Missouri with this collection of recordings by Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology and the Conservation Department.

Discounted Price: \$6.40

Heritage card discount does not apply.

Adventure Packs are BACK!



Runge Adventure Packs are available once again for check-out at the front desk. They have some new items to help you explore our trails. These packs are available for use everyday on a first-come, first-serve basis, so stop by today to try one

ConservationKids' Club

Parental Permission Form

Conservation Kids' Club is planning a field trip to the **Gasconade River** near Freeburg, Missouri, on **June 2 and 3**. Children must have joined Conservation Kids' Club by May 16, 2006 in order to attend this field trip.

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. We will be canoeing approximately 6 to 7 hours. Lunch, water, and snacks will be provided.

Please bring or wear the following:

- ✓ swimsuit
- ✓ water shoes or tennis shoes
- ✓ sunscreen
- ✓ water bottle
- ✓ towel

Optional to put in a dry bag:

- ✓ extra clothes
- ✓ hat
- ✓ waterproof camera
- ✓ insect repellent
- ✓ extra water

We will meet at Runge Conservation Nature Center parking lot at 7:30AM for registration. We will leave at 8:00AM and expect to return by 5:30PM. Children and chaperones must ride the bus to and from the field trip location for security reasons. No exceptions, please!

If you must cancel for any reason, please call the nature center at the number below as there will be a waiting list of children who would like to go. The trip is free for Conservation Kids' Club members but each parent chaperone needs to include a **\$5.00 check payable to Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation** and mailed to the Runge Conservation Nature Center with the bottom portion of this form. (The \$5.00 parent/guardian chaperone fee is to assist with the transportation costs of the busses.) **The \$5 fee is non-refundable after May 31.**

Please choose one of the following dates and times:

☐ **Friday, June 2 - 7:30AM-5:30PM**

☐ **Saturday, June 3 - 7:30AM-5:30PM**

One chaperone is required for children ages 6-9. No chaperone is required for children ages 10-13. If a chaperone desires to attend the field trip, please limit one person per family. This will increase the opportunity for Kids' Club members to fill the available space. Exception: If a family has 3 or more children in Kids' Club 2 chaperones may attend.

We have a limit of 45 people per trip so register your child early! We'll call you if your form was not in the first 45.

Conservation Kids' Club Leader: Trana Madsen, Naturalist
Runge Conservation Nature Center
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 526-5544

Parents/Guardian-Return the bottom portion by 5:00PM on May 19.

I give my permission for the following child(ren):

- 1) _____ 3) _____
2) _____ 4) _____

to go with the Conservation Kids' Club to _____ being held on _____.

I understand transportation will be provided by Runge Conservation Nature Center and that the busses will leave the nature center promptly at 8:00AM and return to the nature center at 5:30PM.

I understand that in case of an emergency a nature center staff person will contact _____ who can be reached at _____.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: (work) _____ (home) _____

Does your child have any special needs? (e.g. accessibility, diet, etc.) _____

☐ Please check if you plan to be a chaperone on this field trip and fill in your name(s) below. Address your check to **Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation** and return it to Runge Conservation Nature Center with this form.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Office Use Only: Date Received _____ Paid _____ Call Status _____

Attach Check Here
Parent/Guardian Chaperone